

From: Mark Shepard
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:42am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

As a software engineer with over 10 years experience, I believe the Proposed Final Judgement should NOT be approved, for the following reason:

The PFJ too narrowly defines "API". Undocumented APIs allow Microsoft to prevent third-parties from creating software for Windows. Instead, the PFJ should require this: Each time and in every case where Microsoft releases ANY "object code" to anyone or any group, Microsoft should also be required to release ANY AND ALL source-code which defines the INTERFACES the aforementioned "object code" depends on, requires and/or optionally is able to use. Further, this "interface source-code" (a.k.a. "header files") should be released under a license which allows unrestricted copying, re-publishing in any form, and use of the information by anyone, whether part of the original group to which Microsoft released it or not.

I believe the current definition of API is such a serious defect in the PFJ that it alone will negate the value of the entire PFJ.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

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